

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-245 (cancelled)

246. (currently amended) A chemically modified nucleic acid construct, said construct comprising at least one modified nucleotide, or at least one nucleotide analog, or a combination of the foregoing, wherein at least one modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a fusogenic protein and at least one modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a ligand, which construct when present in a cell is used as a template for the synthesis of a nucleic acid product having biological activity, wherein said product comprises RNA, said product selected from the group consisting of antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing.

247. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein at least a portion of said construct or a portion thereof is linear, circular or branched.

248. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein at least a portion of said construct or a portion thereof is single-stranded, double-stranded, partially double-stranded or triple-stranded.

249. (currently amended) The construct of claim 248246, wherein said construct is in double-stranded form.

250 (currently amended) The construct of claim 248246, having at least one terminus, said terminus comprising a polynucleotide tail.

251. (previously presented) The construct of claim 250, wherein said

polynucleotide tail is hybridized to a complementary polynucleotide sequence.

252. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct comprises DNA, or RNA, a DNA-RNA hybrid, a DNA-RNA chimera or a combination of the foregoing.

Claims 253-254 (canceled)

255. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein at least one of said nucleotide analog or analogs modified nucleotides have has been modified at least on the backbone or at least on the side chain or both.

Claims 256-263 (canceled)

264. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said ligand or ligands are attached at least to a single stranded segment, at least to a double stranded segment, at least to a single stranded construct tail, or at least to a sequence complementary to a construct tail, or a combination of the foregoing.

265. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said ligand or ligands are macromolecules, or small molecules, or a combination of both.

Claims 266-270 (canceled)

271. (currently amended) A chemically modified double-stranded nucleic acid construct, wherein solely one strand of said construct comprises a modified nucleotide, or a nucleotide analog, or a combination of the foregoing, wherein said modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a at least one non-nucleic acid entity, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity is selected from the group

consisting of a polypeptide, a protein, a saccharide, a fatty acid, and a fatty acid ester, and a combination of the foregoing, which construct when present in a cell is used as a template for the synthesis of a nucleic acid product having biological activity, said product selected from the group consisting of antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing comprising RNA, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity confers cell targeting.

272. (currently amended) The chemically modified construct of claim 271, wherein said further comprising a non-nucleic acid entity further that confers cellular localization, or nuclear localization or a combination of the foregoing.

273. (currently amended) A chemically modified nucleic acid construct, said construct comprising a modified nucleotide, or a nucleotide analog, or a combination of the foregoing, wherein said modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprises a at least one non-nucleic acid entity, which construct when present in a cell is used as a template for the synthesis of a nucleic acid product having biological activity, said product selected from the group consisting of antisense RNA, antisense DNA, sense RNA, ribozymes, messenger RNA, and a combination of any of the foregoing comprises RNA, wherein said non-nucleic acid entity confers nuclease resistance at least nuclease resistance, or at least cell targeting, cellular localization or nuclear localization, or a combination of the foregoing, wherein said construct further comprises at least two strands, wherein a first strand is a circular strand and the second strand (a) has at least one terminus, said terminus comprising a polynucleotide tail and (b) comprises two segments, wherein one segment is complementary to at least a portion of the first strand and the second segment lacks said complementarity and comprises said polynucleotide tail, wherein said polynucleotide tail is hybridized to a complementary polynucleotide sequence, wherein said complementary nucleic acid sequence comprises a non-nucleic acid entity.

274. (currently amended) The construct of claim 246, wherein said construct further comprises a modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprising a non-nucleic acid entity comprising a nuclear localization signal or cellular localization signal.

275. (new) The construct of claim 273, wherein said construct further comprises a modified nucleotide or nucleotide analog comprising a non-nucleic acid entity comprising a nuclear localization signal or cellular localization signal.